

## EMANUEL ADMINISTRATION FOOD DESERT UPDATE: TWO YEARS OF PROGRESS

Mayor Emanuel believes that access to high quality food is not just a health issue, but is one of the basic building blocks of a strong community and vibrant local economy. In an effort to increase access to healthy food, the Emanuel Administration has actively worked to bring additional grocery stores to underserved areas, upgrade existing stores to serve fresh food and produce, and increase the number of urban farms. These efforts have both created jobs and improved public health.

In the last two years, real progress has been made – the number of low-income residents who live more than one mile away from a large grocery store has been cut by nearly 21 percent.

### REDUCING THE SIZE OF CHICAGO'S FOOD DESERTS: BY THE NUMBERS

Mayor Emanuel is committed to using every tool available to eliminate the City's food deserts. His efforts began with a June 2011 summit with the Chief Executive Officers of six national and regional grocery store chains. The CEOs responded by committing to open or upgrade thirty-six grocery stores – all offering fresh fruits and vegetables.

In October 2011, the Mayor hosted First Lady Michelle Obama and eight other mayors to share best practices and announce thirty-six stores by major retailers to open in Chicago's food deserts. The summit served as a national model for the role of public-private partnerships in combating food access issues.

In its first two years, the Emanuel Administration and its partners have achieved the following:

- **15** stores opened or upgraded in food deserts
- **14** fresh produce carts rolled onto Chicago's streets, with half in low-food access areas
- **253,000** pounds of fruits and vegetables grown this year on more than 15 acres of urban farms
- **85** restaurants, pantries, grocery stores, farmer's markets, and private residences served by the City's urban farms
- **5** new successful farmers markets in West Side food deserts
- **32** weekly stops by two Fresh Moves Mobile Produce Market Buses in 7 food desert neighborhoods



### THE RESULTS: PROVIDING HEALTHIER FOOD OPTIONS WHERE THEY'RE MOST NEEDED

Through this comprehensive plan, the Emanuel Administration has decreased the number of low-income residents living more than one mile from a grocery store from 100,159 to 79,434 – a 21 percent reduction. The attached maps illustrate the progress achieved across the City. While the progress is significant, there is still more work to be done to ensure that every resident living in the city has access to healthy food options.



# CITY OF CHICAGO FOOD DESERT MAPS: JUNE 2011 – AUGUST 2013

